Rainer G. Uschner

10213 Pepperhill Lane Richmond, VA 23233 (804) 740-4820 (phone/fax) January 28, 2004

Mr. Mark Alling Virginia Department of Environmental Quality 4949-A Cox Road Glen Allen, Va. 23060 Via e-mail

Re: Water Quality Improvement at Tuckahoe Creek, Henrico, Virginia

Dear Mr. Alling:

I enjoyed your presentation on Tuckahoe creek and its tributaries, which you gave on January 20, 2004. The DEQ has worked diligently to test our neighborhood creek and watershed area and you presented a good overview of the findings.

According to your request, I submit the following suggestions to help reduce pollution levels in this area:

- 1. I believe that the population of wild geese who live permanently in our area is out of control as evidenced by the amount of excrement, particularly in the area around the lakes of Innsbruck. I believe that a coordinated effort between the DEQ and other state and county agencies involved in animal control issues should be made to get a handle on this part of the problem.
- You mentioned during the presentation that deer actually create the highest amount of fecal
 pollution in the wildlife group. Again, adequate control of this population should yield a major
 improvement in the water quality due to reduced pollution. I believe that coordinated efforts by
 county and state officials would yield good results.
- 3. I believe that more can (and probably should) be done to supervise farming operations in our area to minimize animal wastes from reaching the watershed.
- 4. The DEQ findings and suggestions regarding low dissolved oxygen levels (especially in our ponds) appear to be reasonable and adequate.

As a general comment, I would like to commend you on your efforts to contact the residential associations. For future reference, I suggest that Mr. Ralph Cooke from the Henrico County planning office (501-4282) could be of assistance when attempting to contact adjoining homeowners in order to maximize the impact of your efforts. I encourage you invite representatives of the homeowners associations to initiate discussions on how to minimize pet and fertilizer pollution.

I am a board member of the Henrico Business Council (part of the Greater Richmond Chamber) and I recommend that you keep us posted about your efforts as we may be in a position to assist you in the future.

Sincerely yours,

R. G. Uschner

Cc: Mrs. Pat O'Bannon, Mrs. Angela Harper (via e-mail)



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

W. Tayloe Murphy, Jr. Secretary of Natural Resources PIEDMONT REGIONAL OFFICE 4949-A Cox Road Glen Allen, Virginia 23060 (804) 527-5020 Fax (804) 527-5106 www.deq.state.va.us Robert G. Burnley Director

Gerard Seeley, Jr. Regional Director

April 30, 2003

Rainer G. Uschner 10213 Pepperhill Lane Richmond, VA 23233

Dear Mr. Uschner:

Thank you very much for your written comments on the Tuckahoe Creek TMDL. Responses to your comments are italicized below each comment.

1. I believe that the population of wild geese who live permanently in our area is out of control as evidenced by the amount of excrement, particularly in the area around the lakes of Innsbruck. I believe that a coordinated effort between the DEQ and other state and county agencies involved in animal control issues should be made to get a handle on this part of the problem.

Response: Wildlife bacteria load is considered a natural effect from the presence of wildlife species in the watershed. Wildlife bacteria load is very important, but because wildlife is considered naturally present in the watershed, the TMDL does not seek reductions in wildlife bacterial load or populations. This includes Canada geese, even though a sub-species of non-migratory Canada geese inhabit Virginia along with the migratory population.

 You mentioned during the presentation that deer actually create the highest amount of fecal pollution in the wildlife group. Again, adequate control of this population should yield a major improvement in the water quality due to reduced pollution. I believe that coordinated efforts by county and state officials would yield good results.

Response: Please see response #1.

3. I believe that more can (and probably should) be done to supervise farming operations in our area to minimize animal wastes from reaching the watershed.

Response: During the next phase of the TMDL, the development of an implementation plan, we will be looking at the contributions of agriculture, along with the other identified sources, and devising methods to limit the amount for bacteria contribution to the streams. This process will occur with the creation of local workgroups, composed of local stakeholders, who will set priorities for the Best Management Practices (BMPs) to be installed.

4. The DEQ findings and suggestions regarding low dissolved oxygen levels (especially in our ponds) appear to be reasonable and adequate.

Response: Thank you.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding the information provided. I would be happy to make myself available to further discuss the Tuckahoe Creek TMDL.

Sincerely,

R. Christopher French TMDL Coordinator Piedmont Regional Office, DEQ



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

COUNTY OF HENRICO

February 16, 2004



Mark Alling
Department of Environmental Quality
4949 A Cox Road
Glen Allen, VA 23060

Dear Mr. Alling,

Recently, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) hosted several meetings regarding draft Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements for certain stream reaches in Henrico County. Henrico County staff attended these meetings and expressed concerns about ways to address some of the sources of the identified pollutants, specifically fecal loads. As you recall, we raised the issue of unregulated point sources as potentially contributing significant pollutant loads to our streams. Although identification of these point sources is often a difficult task, Henrico County has identified approximately 200 such locations as a result of a County-wide stream assessment and stream corridor inventory conducted in the fall of 2000.

During the development of the County's Stream Assessment / Watershed Management Program, the County conducted habitat assessments and stream corridor inventories of approximately 440 miles of stream through out the County. Generally, all streams with 100 acres or more drainage area were walked by field teams. Among the many items (utility structures, stream crossings, dumpsites, areas of erosion, etc.) we identified within the stream corridor was the location of pipes discharging to the stream. We also made note of the size and type of the pipe and the nature of the discharge, if any. In fact, on the first day of the assessments, two pipes were found that were the direct sewage outfalls from two residences. These straight pipes were immediately turned over to the local Health Department and Department of Public Utilities and corrected.

Although many of the pipes identified are County approved storm sewer outfalls, there are approximately 200 that are smaller than the minimum allowable diameter for storm sewer (15 inches) and their source is unknown. We have previously met with DEQ representatives to determine options for testing these pipes. As I am sure you are aware most streams are located on private property (homeowners own to center line of stream). Therefore, the ability of the County to legally test and enforce pipe disconnections came into question. It was our understanding that our staff could act as an agent of the State Water Control Board and perform inspections for these outfall pipes (see attached correspondence). Unfortunately a decision was made at DEQ not to allow this. We then offered to turn the location of these pipes over to DEQ for further

Mark Alling February 16, 2004 Page 2

investigation, however we have received no request to date. Hence, for more than a year, we have had known outfall pipes discharging to State waters that have not been inspected. A copy of our previous correspondence is included for your reference.

Since developing an implementation plan to eliminate sources of pollutants will be required as a component of the TMDL, we feel that one of the first steps for any implementation plan is the identification and elimination of potential sources. We are forwarding you a map of outfall pipe locations in the watersheds of the impaired stream segments. We are also providing an Arc View shape file showing the location of all the questionable pipes in the County. Obviously, we are frustrated as we have already identified outfall pipes (potential sources) and feel the investigation of these pipes should have occurred some time ago. If these pipes had been investigated and all identified violations corrected, additional controls in the form of a TMDL may not have been needed.

It is our understanding that DCR will be responsible for preparing TMDL implementation plans for impaired watersheds. We are hereby requesting that investigation of these pipes by DEQ be included in the TMDL implementation plans. Prior to spending valuable local resources to identify additional possible pollutant sources in a watershed, DEQ should investigate those that have already been identified. We have always felt that not only would this information be valuable for our goal of improving water quality, but would be useful information for other localities who are contemplating similar stream inventories and/cr have impaired waters.

We look forward to your response and if you have any further questions regarding this matter, you can reach me at 501-4539.

Sincerely

Jeff W. Perry

Environmental Manager

Attachments

pc: Joseph Maroon, Director, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation

September 16, 2002

Mr. Robert G. Burnley Director, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality 629 East Main Street P.O. Box 10009 Richmond, Virginia 23240-0009

RE: Authority for Private Pipe Investigation in Henrico County

Dear Mr. Burnley:

In August 2001, Henrico County adopted an innovative program to address stormwater quality requirements mandated by Section 402(p) of the Clean Water Act (the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) and the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area (CBPA) Designation and Management Regulations. Development of the Stream Assessment / Watershed Management Program (Program) took over four years during which the Department of Environmental Quality, the Department of Conservation and Recreation, and the Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance Department were routinely consulted. Since its adoption, the Program has been found consistent with both the CBPA Regulations and the Virginia Stormwater Management Regulations. The Program is also a component of the County's Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (VPDES) permit.

In developing the Program, an extensive assessment and inventory of the streams throughout the County was conducted. All streams with 100 acres or more of drainage area (approximately 440 miles) were walked and evaluated. In addition to conducting habitat assessments of the stream reaches, we identified and inventoried items and conditions such as eroded streambanks, road crossings, stream obstructions and pipes within the stream corridor.

The inventoried pipes should be of particular interest to DEQ since they discharge directly to state waters. During the stream evaluations, we did identify illicit discharges from several of these pipes and addressed them immediately. However, no discharge was evident from the majority of the pipes and therefore we were unable to determine whether or not the pipes constitute an illicit discharge to state waters. Although some of the pipes are clearly outfalls of the public storm sewer system, approximately 200 of the inventoried pipes are smaller than the minimum allowable size for storm sewer (15 inches in diameter). Many of these could be roof or foundation drains. However, they could also be gray water discharges (from washing machines) or sewage outfalls from

Mr. Robert G. Burnley September 16, 2002 Page 2

individual residences (two pipes found on the first day of the stream assessments were the main sewage outfalls for dwellings.)

In order to determine the source of these pipes, additional investigation and monitoring is needed and the County is ready to investigate the pipes. However, we feel we lack the authority to conduct monitoring of private pipes that discharge to state waters. As you are aware, the County's jurisdiction established by the VPDES permit is limited to the municipal storm sewer system. We are unaware that the current or proposed language of our VPDES permit authorizes County staff to conduct such investigations. In fact, Mr. Jeff Perry contacted Mr. Mark Alling of your staff in September 2001 concerning this issue and Mr. Alling responded with the following quote from the state water control law:

Section 62.1 - 44.20: "Right to entry to obtain information, etc... - Any duly authorized agent of the Board may, at reasonable times and under reasonable circumstances, enter any establishment or upon any property, public or private, for the purposes of obtaining information or conducting surveys or investigations necessary in the enforcement of the provisions of this chapter." - page 423, Code of Virginia 1950, Volume 9, 1998 Replacement Volume.

We consulted the County Attorney's office and it is their opinion that we would need to be "duly authorized" by the State Water Control Board in order to conduct the pipe investigations. Based on this response, we contacted Mr. Martin Ferguson and requested a meeting to discuss becoming an authorized agent of the Board. The meeting was held on November 15, 2001 and Mr. Ferguson, Mr. James Golding, and Mr. Burt Tuxford from DEQ were present and Mr. Jeff Perry and Mr. Keith White attended from Henrico County. After discussing the issue, it was our understanding that instead of pursuing authority through the Board, appropriate language would be added to our VPDES permit authorizing County staff to conduct the necessary investigations and monitoring.

Recently, we were contacted by Ms. Oula Shehab of your Department to discuss draft language for the reissuance of our VPDES permit. When we asked about the authority language she indicated that she was unaware of the issue. Ms. Shehab later informed us that according to Mr. Ferguson, the County has the authority to investigate and monitor the pipes. However, there was no indication where the authority was provided.

Mr. Robert G. Burnley September 16, 2002 Page 3

As I mentioned earlier, the County is in a position to proceed with investigating the pipes as long as we have clear authority to do so. If DEQ or the State Water Control Board does not provide the County with authority, we will turn the inventory information over to DEQ for your information and request that you notify us of the results of your investigations. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Jeff Perry at 501-4539.

Sincerely,

Robert K. Pinkerton, P.E.

Deputy County Manager for Community Operations

C: Mr. Jeff Perry, Environmental Management Engineer

Mr. Keith White, Environmental Engineer

RKP/KOW/lhc



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

W. Tayloe Murphy, Jr. Secretary of Natural Resources Street address: 629 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219

Mailing address: P.O. Box 10009, Richmond, Virginia 23240

Fax (804) 698-4500 TDD (804) 698-4021

www.deg.state.va.us

Robert G. Burnley Director

(804) 698-4000 1-800-592-5482

October 3, 2002

Mr. Robert K. Pinkerton, P.E. Deputy County Manager for Community Operations County of Henrico P.O. Box 27032 Richmond, Virginia 23273-7032

Dear Mr. Pinkerton:

In response to your letter of September 16 to Robert Burnley, the 1990 EPA Phase 1 Storm Water Regulations required Henrico County, as a designated medium municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4), to develop a storm water management program (SWMP) to reduce the impacts of the County's MS4 storm water discharges to the maximum extent practicable. In the permit application, which was submitted to DEQ in May 1993, the County was required to demonstrate that they had adequate legal authority to control industrial discharges to the MS4, prohibit illicit discharges to the MS4, control spills and dumping or disposal of materials to the MS4, require compliance with conditions in ordinances, permits, contracts or orders, and carry out all inspection, surveillance and monitoring procedures necessary to determine compliance and noncompliance with permit conditions including the prohibition on illicit discharges to the MS4.

In the permit that was issued by DEQ to Henrico County on July 23, 1997, Special Condition #3 required the County to operate pursuant to the established legal authority to carry out all parts of the SWMP. If the existing legal authority was not sufficient to carry out all parts of the SWMP, the permit required the County to seek additional authority as necessary and appropriate, and to supply a schedule and description of the proposed additional authority in the first Annual Report that was submitted to DEQ.

In response to a Notice of Violation that the County received for failing to perform any of the permit required storm water discharge monitoring, the County proposed to modify their permit and the SWMP to substitute the Stream Assessment Program for the storm water discharge monitoring requirement. DEQ agreed to this and has drafted a permit for reissuance with the new Stream Assessment Program as a requirement. If the County does not have the legal authority to carry out the program as described, then they must seek the additional authority through ordinance, order or similar means, and supply a schedule and description of the proposed additional authority in the next Annual Report that is submitted to DEQ. The Stream Assessment Program is a County program, not a DEQ program, and as

Mr. Robert K. Pinkerton, P.E. October 3, 2002 Page 2

such, it is not appropriate for the State Water Control Board to "duly authorize" the County as its agent to carry out these investigations.

If you have any questions regarding this matter or your draft permit, please contact Ms. Oula Shehab of the Piedmont Regional Office.

Sincerely,

ichard F. Weeks, J

Deputy Director for Operations

cc:

Martin Ferguson, DEQ Gerry Seeley, DEQ





COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

COUNTY OF HENRICO

October 18, 2002

Mr. Richard F. Weeks, Jr. Deputy Director for Operations 629 East Main Street P.O. Box 10009 Richmond, Virginia 23240-0009

RE: Authority for Private Pipe Investigation in Henrico County

Dear Mr. Weeks:

We have received your letter dated October 3, 2002 related to our questions concerning local authority for investigation of private pipes. Based on your letter, we feel there is a misunderstanding with regards to these pipes and the County's Stream Assessment / Watershed Management Program (Program). I would like to offer the following discussion in hopes that it may clarify the County's position.

In response to a Notice of Violation issued by DEQ, the County proposed a modification to its municipal storm sewer system (MS4) consisting of a program of stream assessments in lieu of stormwater discharge monitoring. The assessments included habitat assessments of all stream segments with 100 acres or more of drainage area and bioassessments to be conducted on a regular basis at various locations throughout the County. This alternative approach was accepted by DEQ and the assessments were completed in the Fall of 2000. The information gathered during the assessments was used to develop the Program. The Program was subsequently determined to be consistent with the Virginia Stormwater Management Regulations in January 2002.

During development of the Program, the County did in fact pursue and obtain a state code revision to authorize the County to collect funds as a means of complying with the stormwater management requirements. This revision became effective on July 1, 2001. To clarify one point of confusion, the County currently has the authority to implement all required components of the Program.

While we were conducting the stream assessments, we felt much could be gained by identifying other influences that could be impacting the stream health within the County. Items such as dumpsites, stream obstructions and erosion areas were identified and many have been addressed. We also identified numerous pipes that discharge directly to the stream system. Although many of these pipes are part of the County's MS4, approximately 200 are not. Some of

Mr. Richard F Weeks, Jr. October 18, 2002 Page 2

these were easily identified illicit discharges and were immediately addressed. The origins of others are unknown. There are three important points to mention concerning the pipes of unknown origin:

- 1) The pipes discharge into state waters, and are therefore outside the locally regulated MS4,
- 2) Additional investigation is required to identify the origins of the pipes, and
- 3) The pipes are on private land.

In discussing the negative impacts these pipes could have on stream health and our desire to address them, we were advised that we lacked the authority to pursue them. Subsequently, we began discussions with DEQ to obtain this authority.

Instead of a continued letter campaign, we would like to meet with you and other appropriate DEQ staff to resolve this issue. I'm sure we can come to an agreement regarding these pipes, especially since we share a common goal – to improve the quality of our stream systems. If you have any questions, please contact Jeff Perry at 501-4539.

Sincerely,

Robert C. Thompson, P.E.

Director of Public Works/ County Engineer

C: David Paylor, Deputy Secretary of Natural Resources Robert G. Burnley, Director, DEQ Oula Shehab, Environmental Specialist, DEQ Robert K. Pinkerton Jeff Perry

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

COUNTY OF HENRICO

October 18, 2002

Ms. Oula K. Shehab, Ph. D. Environmental Specialist Department of Environmental Quality 4949-A Cox Road Glen Allen, Virginia 23060

RE: VPDES Permit VA0088617 Henrico County MS4

Draft Fermit Language

Dear Ms. Shahab:

We have received your letter dated October 11, 2002 discussing the Department of Environmental Quality's responses to our comments concerning the draft language for the County's VPDES permit. According to your letter, DEQ staff does not concur with two of the County's recommended revisions.

One of the outstanding issues concerns the County's authority to conduct further investigations of pipes identified during the stream assessments. These pipes outfall directly into State waters, not the County's MS4 system. We did receive a letter from Mr. Richard Weeks, Deputy Director for Operations discussing this issue. However, there appears to be a misunderstanding with regards to these pipes and the County's Stream Assessment / Watershed Management Program. Therefore, we are requesting a meeting with Mr. Weeks and other appropriate DEQ staff to resolve this issue. A copy of this request is attached. We further request that the draft permit language not be finalized until that meeting is held.

The other outstanding issue concerns the VPDES General Permit for Discharges from Construction sites. In your letter, you state that "The draft permit is requiring the submittal of a list of all land disturbance projects and their acreage that **the county** has granted to developers."

Please note that this is not what the draft language requires. The draft permit language reads

Oula K. Shehab, Ph.D. October 18, 2002 Page 2

Within 30 days of approval of a site plan, the permittee shall notify the Department of Environmental Quality, Piedmont Regional Office of the owner and site location of all land disturbing activities of greater than 5 acres. Upon final DEQ promulgation of regulations which incorporate the federal regulations (40 CFR 122.26 Phase II Storm Water), the permittee shall notify the Department of Environmental Quality, Piedmont Regional Office of the owner and site location of all land disturbing activities greater than one acre...

This language does not require a year-end listing of approved projects but a project-by-project reporting that will result in significant paperwork for County staff. In addition, the proposed language also requires owner information and specific location of the projects. In the County's opinion, this regular reporting of potential violators does constitute administration of DEQ's General Permit for Construction Activities, albeit on the enforcement side of the permit requirements.

Although we continue to request the language be removed from the draft permit, we will agree to provide, as part of our annual report, a listing of projects authorized for construction along with the resulting disturbed acreage and the hydrologic unit in which the project is located. This is very similar to a report to we currently provide to the Department of Conservation and Recreation on an annual basis.

Once these remaining issues are resolved, we will sign and forward the Public Notice Authorization to you.

If you have any questions, please contact Keith White at 501-7475.

Sincerely,

Robert C. Thompson, P.E.

Director of Public Works/County Engineer

C: David Paylor, Deputy Secretary of Natural Resources
Robert G. Burnley, Director, DEQ
Richard F. Weeks, Jr., Deputy Director for Operations, DEQ
Robert K. Pinkerton
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PHS09.P01 PHS09.P02 PHS09.P03 DRN05.P01 DRN28.P02 DRN29.P09	DRN30.P04 DRN31.P10 DRN14.P01 DRN14.P02 DRN21.P02 DRN21.P03	DRN16.P05 TCC02.P06 TCC03.P01 TCC04.P01 TCC05.P02 TCC03.P02 TCC03.P03 TCC03.P03	TCC07.P02 TCC07.P07 TCC07.P12 UPB32.P03 UPB32.P01 UPB32.P01	UHB03.P12 UHB03.P13 UHB09.P01 UHB09.P02 UHB09.P02

Clear	NONE	Clear			NONE
12.000000 Stormwater	2.000000 None 4.00000 Industrial	6.000000 Industrial 12.00000 None	12.00000 None 12.00000 None	12.000000 None	6.000000 Industrial
Pipe Pipe	Pipe Pipe	Pipe Pipe	Pipe Pipe	Pipe	Pipe Pipe
UHB09.P04	NOR12.P01	NOR02.P01	NHC16.P02	NHC15.P08	NOR12.P03



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

W. Tayloe Murphy, Jr. Secretary of Natural Resources PIEDMONT REGIONAL OFFICE 4949-A Cox Road Glen Allen, Virginia 23060 (804) 527-5020 Fax (804) 527-5106 www.deq.state.va.us Robert G. Burnley Director

Gerard Seeley, Jr. Regional Director

July 7, 2004

Jeff W. Perry Department of Public Works P.O. Box 27032 Richmond, VA 23273-7032

Dear Mr. Perry:

Thank you very much for your written comment on the Tuckahoe Creek, White Oak Swamp, and Four Mile Creek TMDLs in Henrico County. Your comment is summarized below and along with our response.

1. County of Henrico Public Works staff located 200 unregulated point sources, or "straight pipes" during a county-wide stream assessment undertaken in 2000. They provided pipe diameter, type and quality of discharge, and latitude / longitude of each unregulated point source pipe. Henrico County staff request that DEQ staff investigate these pipes as part of any implementation plan.

Response: DEQ appreciates that the County of Henrico has provided us with the locations of these pipes. DEQ pollution response staff has begun investigation of these pipes to include sampling and source identification. The complete investigation of these pipes is anticipated to take one year. Those pipes found to be illicit discharges will be further investigated to determine the source and corrective actions will be taken. This investigation will be included in the implementation plan if not complete by the time the plan is written.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding the information provided. I would be happy to make myself available to further discuss the TMDLs in Henrico County.

Sincerely,

R. Christopher French TMDL Coordinator Piedmont Regional Office, DEQ